

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims now pending. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing image formation based on image-formation data, said image processing apparatus causing a comprising:

receiving means for receiving job data to include said that includes
the image-formation data and a communication program procedure for communicating
with an external unit, and unit; and

control means for controlling said the image formation in
accordance with a result of communicating with said the communication with the external
unit based on said the communication procedure in said program in the job data,

wherein said the communication program comprises procedure is a
restriction procedure for restricting the use of said the image processing apparatus for each
user.

2. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said the communication program procedure determines whether to allow
a user, who requests to print, to print or not by querying an external information apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said the communication program procedure determines whether or not

said image processing apparatus allows a user to print, by referring to the number of sheets of information the user already has printed and the number of sheets of information which can be printed by the user, stored in said the external unit.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said the communication program comprises procedure is a procedure for communicating with a charging management unit for collecting charging information for charging each user for the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said the communication program comprises procedure is a procedure for communicating with an image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus for each user.

6. (Cancelled)

4
7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said the restriction procedure restricts based on the number of formed images the use of said image processing apparatus.

7
8. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said the communication program procedure is used to pay a value necessary for image formation.

8 9. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said the communication program procedure is independent for each
image to be formed.

9 10. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
any one of Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9, wherein said the external unit comprises is a computer.

10 11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus connected to
an external unit via a network, said image processing apparatus comprising:

communication means for communicating with said the external
unit, said communication means being configured to receive job data that includes image-
formation data and a communication program for communicating with the external unit;

image processing means for generating image data from the
image-formation data;

image output means for outputting to a medium images based on
said the image data; and

control means for controlling said image processing means and said
image output means in accordance with a result of the communication with the external
unit by executing the communication program in the job data, data;

wherein said communication means receives job data including said
image-formation data and a procedure for communicating with said external unit, and said
control means executes said procedure in said job data to communicate with said external

unit, whereby controlling image-output processing based on said image-formation data in accordance with a result of the communication with said external unit,

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

~~said the external unit is comprises~~ an image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus for each user, and for restricting the use of said image processing apparatus based on the number of formed images.

¹¹
~~12.~~ (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim ¹⁰₁₁, wherein an apparatus for supplying ~~said the~~ job data to said image processing apparatus is connected to ~~said the~~ network.

¹²
~~13.~~ (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim ¹⁰₁₁, wherein ~~said the~~ external unit ~~is comprises~~ a charging management unit for collecting charging information for charging each user for the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus.

¹³
14. (Cancelled)

¹⁴
~~15.~~ (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim ¹⁰₁₁, wherein ~~said the~~ external unit ~~is comprises~~ a charge collector for charging each user for a value necessary for image formation.

14
16. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said the job data is independent for each image to be formed.

15
~~17.~~ (Currently Amended) A machine-readable recording medium
containing a program for controlling an image processing apparatus forming images based
on image-formation data, said program comprising:

code for a reception step, of receiving from the exterior job data
including said the image-formation data and a procedure second program for
predetermined processing performing predetermined procedures; and

code for a control step, of controlling image formation in accordance
with the received procedure second program,

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print
server, and

the received procedure is second program comprises a restriction
procedure for restricting the use of said the image processing apparatus.

16
~~18.~~ (Currently Amended) A machine-readable recording medium
containing a program controlling an image processing apparatus forming images based on
image-formation data, said program comprising:

code for an include addition step, of causing adding to job data to
include said the image formation data and a communication program procedure for
communicating with an external unit; and

code for a control step, of controlling said the image formation in accordance with a result of the communication with said the external unit based on said the communication program added to the procedure included in said job data,

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

said the communication program comprises procedure is a restriction procedure for restricting the use of said the image processing apparatus.

C, [19-32. (Cancelled)

17
33. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus performing image formation based on image-formation data, said image processing method comprising:

an include addition step, of causing adding to job data to include said the image-formation data and a communication program procedure for communicating with an external unit; and

a control step, of controlling said the image formation in accordance with a result of communicating with said the external unit based on said the communication program procedure,

wherein said the communication program comprises procedure is a restriction procedure for restricting the use of said the image processing apparatus.

14 34. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus connected to an external unit via a network, said image processing method comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving job data that includes image-formation data and a communication program for communicating with the external unit;

a communication step, of communicating with said the external unit;

an image processing step, of generating image data from the image-formation data;

C1
an image output step, of outputting to a medium images based on said the image data; and

a control step, of controlling said image processing step and said image output step in accordance with a result of the communication with the external unit by executing the communication program in the job data, data;

wherein said communication step receives job data including said image-formation data and a procedure for communicating with said external unit, and said control step executes said procedure in said job data to communicate with said external unit, whereby controlling image-output processing based on said image-formation data in accordance with a result of the communication with said external unit,

wherein said job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

said the external unit is comprises an image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing condition of said the image

C1 processing apparatus for each user, and for restricting the use of said the image processing
C 2 apparatus based on the number of formed images.
